

~~SECRET~~

NSC BRIEFING NOTES

BR 00000A000400020035-4

12/72

*file*  
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

**FRENCH POLITICAL SITUATION AND INDOCHINA**

*when faces Indochina debate*

- I. Laniel government safe till 1 June.
  - A. National Assembly in recess all this week except Tuesday.
- II. After 1 June Laniel's position increasingly precarious because of:
  - A. Splits inside the coalition.
    1. Hostile action about Indochina on 20 May from Pierre Andre, member of Laniel's own group (Independents) and leader of parliamentary organization against EDC.
    2. One report of dissatisfaction with Bidault on part of his own Popular Republican Party.
    3. Continued willingness of Gaullists and Radical Socialists to make political hay out of government's difficulties.
  - B. Press more caustic:
    1. Rightist Aurere on 24 May called on president Coty to replace Laniel.
  - C. Additional factors when Assembly reconvenes on 1 June:
    1. Anti-EDC forces in cabinet may choose this occasion to resign because:

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DOCUMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
NO CHANGE IN CLASS. [ ]  
1. DECLASSIFIED  
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S C  
NEXT REVIEW DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
AUTH: HM 70-2

25X1

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

Approved For Release 2002/05/07 : CIA-RDP79R00890A000300020035-4

- a. Socialist Congress on 29-30 May expected to call for disciplined vote on EDC.
- b. Popular Republican Congress on 29-30 May likely to bring into question party's continued participation in government if stalling on EDC continues.
- c. Official announcement of French-German agreement on Saar expected after Socialist Congress.

2. New parliamentary interpellations regarding Indochina policy already presented on:

a.



25X6

b. Reinforcement question.

III. Nevertheless, so long as Geneva still seems to hold hope of Indochina settlement, deputies will hesitate to create government crisis.

- A. In 13 May vote of confidence enough deputies switched at last minute to give Laniel his 289-287 victory.

Approved For Release 2002/05/07 : CIA-RDP79R00890A000300020035-4

~~SECRET~~